



Sea, city and island adventure awaits children of deployed parents

ARMY MWR hosts unique summer camps for middle school youth and teens

HEIDELBERG, Germany—Adventure, Resilience, Memories and Youth take on a deeper meaning when you are a novice crewmember working watch on the deck of a sailing ship the first night at sea. Just 15 years-old, you're challenged to face self-doubts and uncertainty, dig down into the core of who you are and rise to your ability to meet new tasks head-on while learning the true meaning of teamwork.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge will help a select group of teenagers from throughout Europe experience opportunities similar to this as they face adventure on the open water in the Tall Ship Sailing Program this summer.

Providing youth of deployed service members an opportunity to experience once in a lifetime events, Installation Management Command-Europe Morale, Welfare and Recreation is scheduled to host four summer camp sessions that are designed to specifically for teens and middle-school children.

In addition, one-week day camps in specialty areas such as sports, drama and art also will be offered at selected garrisons for school-age children, middle school youth and teens. Child and Youth Services day programs for school-age children in grades 1 through 5 also will be available at all garrisons this summer.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge offers a break from the family stresses of deployment and a chance to meet other youth who also are facing the challenges associated with having a deployed parent. Sessions will include activities to help youth develop strategies to cope with the stresses associated with deployment.

Middle school and high school students in grades 6 through 12 (during the 2006-2007 school year) whose active-duty Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine parent deployed between June 1, 2006, and February 28, 2008, are eligible to apply. Although the camp is hosted exclusively by IMCOM-Europe MWR CYS, each Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge venue will have four spaces open to other services. Students having just completed 8th grade are considered an 8th grader for camp attendance and may only apply to the middle school camp sessions.

Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge for middle school youth in grades 6 through 8 will be held July 16-21 in Heidelberg, Germany, and August 6-11 on a German coastal island. The City Adventure session will include cultural awareness programs. The Island Adventure session will feature an environmental awareness program.

The Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge Tall Ship Sailing Program is a hands-on experience designed to challenge high school teens in grades 9-12. Two sessions will be held: July 21-27 and July 27-August 1. In this program, the teens will actually man the ship under the direction of the captain and crew. This participative program offers teens an empowering experience to increase self-awareness and self-confidence, acquire new skills, learn to problem solve and communicate, take responsibility for themselves and others, and build positive relationships and connections with other youth who have deployed parents.

To ensure as many youth as possible have an opportunity to attend Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge this summer, participants will only be allowed to attend one session.

A \$50 camp registration fee will be charged only when a camper is selected to attend. The fee is to reserve the camper's slot in their assigned session and is due by May 31. Refund of the camp registration fee will be given only if written cancellation is submitted at least two weeks prior to the start of camp.

Central bus pick-up points will provide transportation to all camps. Camp organizers stress that no air transportation or individualized transportation will be funded and families will be wholly responsible for getting their son or daughter to the central bus pick-up points. Complete information and the application form for Camp A.R.M.Y. Challenge are available online at www.mwr-europe.com.

Applications will be accepted online only; the application deadline is midnight, May 4.

More information about Army MWR in Europe is available at www.mwr-europe.com

